



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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May 15, 2012

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE CITIES EXCESS FUNDS
AVAILABLE TO THE SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
FOR A GRANT TO THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS
FOR THE GARDENA WILLOWS RESTORATION PROJECT
(SECOND DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$85,000 in Cities Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of Gardena, for a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the construction of a walking trail and habitat improvements at the Gardena Willows in the City of Gardena.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the project provides for improvements to an existing walking trail and the restoration of native habitat which includes removing non-native exotic and invasive plants and replacing them with native plant species and for the reasons cited herein.
2. Allocate \$85,000 in Cities Excess Funds to the City of Gardena, available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Gardena Willows Restoration Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in the amount of

\$85,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Gardena Willows Restoration Project; after the City of Gardena assigns the right to apply for the funds to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps; if applicable conditions have been met and authorize the Director to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$85,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for the Gardena Willows Restoration Project.

The City of Gardena is an eligible recipient of Excess Funds under the 1996 Proposition and the City will assign the right to apply for these funds to LACC.

The proposed Gardena Willows Restoration Project, located at 1200 West 170th Street in Gardena, consists of the restoration of the walking trail around the perimeter of the Gardena Willows and the restoration of native habitat which will include removing exotic invasive plants and replacing them with native plant species.

The total cost of the proposed project is \$85,810. In addition to the recommended Excess Funds, the City has committed to providing \$810 toward the completion of the project.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 2), and Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3), by increasing access to native habitat in the Second Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grants, in the amount of \$85,000, is budgeted in the Second Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The City of Gardena has met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grants will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District for Cities projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award grants when all applicable

conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by the Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Gardena is the lead agency for the proposed Gardena Willows Restoration Project.

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the CEQA according to Sections 15301 and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1 and 4 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for the improvements to an existing walking trail and the restoration of native habitat which includes removing exotic invasive plants and replacing them with native plant species.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required so that the Los Angeles Conservation Corps may proceed on the restoration project in the Second Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions are met.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

5/15/2012

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney".

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:IV

WRO:LB

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors